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WEEKLY DEMOCRATIC LETTER

CONGRESSMAN DAVID A. DE ARMOND OF MISSOURI.

One of the Ablest in Congress, a Thinker and Student—The Coal Trust and Mr. Hearst—The Fatal Postoffice Puddle.

To the Ardmoreite.

Washington, D. C., July 6.—Undoubtedly one of the Democratic leaders and one of the ablest men in the house of representatives is the Hon. David A. De Armond of Missouri. Judge De Armond has been in congress since 1890, having been first elected to the fifty-second congress and re-elected to each succeeding congress. He is one of the ablest lawyers in congress and a member of the committee on judiciary. He was the choice of the Missouri delegation for the caucus nomination for speaker in the fifty-eighth congress when it convenes, but he refused to stand for the nomination, and the choice then fell on Hon. Champ Clark. If the Democrats had carried the house he undoubtedly would have been a candidate for speaker, but he did not care to undertake to harmonize the factions in the party in the house as the floor leader. The judge realizes his shortcomings as a good mixer with men. He is short on cheap talk and long on thinking. He is essentially a thinker and a student, and never loses any time indulging in cloak room stories. He does not inspire affection, but compels admiration from his Democratic colleagues, and is feared and disliked by the Republicans. He is the greatest verbal evicerator in the house, and can perform the neatest job of skinning and gutting an opponent in congress. He is a human wasp and his stinger is always ready for business. He is not an orator, in the true sense of the word, for he has a monotonous and metallic voice that is not pleasant, and he rarely gesticulates. His diction, however, is almost perfect, and he is one of the few men in congress who never correct the reporters' notes for insertion in the Record. When he gets through his speech is a finished production. As a sample of his dexterity with scalpel and rapier, he once said of an opponent, who had a penchant for spilling large goblets of printer's ink and voluminously vociferating to the reporters: "He is, Mr. Chairman, the most remarkable man I ever knew. When he is not writing he is talking, and when he is not talking, he is writing, and he does both without thinking."

Judge De Armond is an amiable and kindly gentleman, a ripe scholar, an able lawyer and a splendid legislator. His retirement from congress would be a distinct loss to the Democratic party and to the nation.

It is the general consensus of opinion here that the decision of Federal Judge Lacombe of New York in the case against the anthracite coal carrying roads brought by William R. Hearst, to the effect that they can not be compelled by the interstate commerce commission to produce their contracts with the mining companies is unmitigated "stuff." The commission represents the government, which has a constitutional right to regulate commerce between the different states. This being admitted, why shouldn't the commission have the right to demand the production of papers bearing upon the regulation of interstate commerce? Judge Lacombe may be a learned judge, but he does not seem to be equipped with a burdensome quantity of common sense. His ruling will be appealed to the United States supreme court, where it will undoubtedly be swept aside with scant courtesy. If there is any anthracite coal trust in existence (and everybody knows there is), then it is the duty of the courts to facilitate and not to obstruct the government's efforts to investigate and suppress it. There is nothing unreasonable in asking corporations to produce papers in evidence which alone will enable the interstate commerce commission to judge whether the laws of the land are being violated or not. If the coal trust thinks that William Randolph Hearst is a quitter they have another and larger task coming.

Notwithstanding the fact that the postoffice department investigation afforded President Roosevelt an opportunity to "make good" in a manner most pleasing to his countrymen, he has neglected the opportunity, has gone to his summer home and left behind him orders that the "gag rule" must be enforced, no news given out and the investigation practically abandoned. The disclosures so far made leave no doubt in an intelligent mind that the investigation has only begun—that "worse remains behind."

The greedy fangs of corruption have fastened themselves upon every branch of the postal service. Mr. Bristow's report gives substantial proof of shameless trafficking in offices, grafting in almost every bureau, of bold and brazen defiance of

all civil service rules and of the damnable pernicious influence of party considerations in the administration of one of the greatest departments of the government.

One of the results of the investigation is the discovery that the four states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa have been especially favored in the distribution of rural mail routes. As three of these are pivotal states in national elections, the reason of this favoritism is perfectly obvious. If Mr. Payne is really ill, he can not be blamed for it. A rational standard of this kind is enough to make anybody "sick." In its purely moral aspect, it bears a strikingly close resemblance to the Panama affair in France, which, in its course, beamrinded the reputations of almost every leading politician. The postoffice department has become absolutely rotten. Every branch of the service needs reform and lots of it. It is the president's duty to leave nothing undone to bring every culprit to justice. The scandal is no longer a matter of lurking suspicion. It has advanced into the indestructible realm of facts. This being the case, every political grafter blood-sucker and briber should be hunted down and held up for public condemnation. The jailorai administration, which happens to be Republican, has reached the point where retreat is no longer impossible. It must, no less said, go ahead, honestly and fearlessly or take the consequences. Does the latest step look as though it were going to do this thing? Does it look as though the people of the country are going to get the facts of this matter when the "gag" rule is applied to the officers of the department and no action taken in the cases of men already indicted of heinous offenses?

The people will never know the extent of the rottenness in the postoffice department until there is a change in the national administration. A congressional investigation by a partisan Republican majority will smother things. How long will the people stand it?

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

DEATH-DEALING CLOUDBURST.

Scores of Lives Lost By Storm in Pennsylvania.

Jeanette, Pa., July 6.—At noon today it was estimated that the loss of life through yesterday's cloudburst and flood at Oakland Park will reach seventy-five. Twenty bodies have been recovered. Many are foreigners and have not been identified.

Dawn broke today on a scene of devastation along Brush creek valley. From Oakland Park to Wilmesville, taking in the towns of Jeanette, Penn., Larimer, Greensburg, Irwin, Burrell and Manor, the awful power of the rushing waters is apparent on all sides. The damage to property will not be less than \$700,000, while the number of lives blotted out is still uncertain, the estimates running all the way from 50 to 150.

Almost with the first streak of daylight a bureau was opened here where the names of the identified dead recovered and the missing were registered, together with a description of the bodies recovered but not identified.

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RACE RIOT IN INDIANA

EVANSVILLE TERRORIZED BY ARMED MOBS OF BOTH RACES

Each Seeking the Destruction of the Other—Gun Stores Broken Open and Guns and Ammunition Carried Off—Troops Ordered.

Evansville, Ind., July 6.—Race prejudice between blacks and whites brought on a reign of terror here Sunday which has not ended. All of last night and all day yesterday armed mobs threatened the lives of citizens. Gun stores were broken open and weapons and ammunition secured by blacks and whites.

The county jail is partly wrecked, an angry mob of 2,000 whites having broken in to hunt for a black victim. The wall was forced with a battering ram. Negro dives were ransacked and shot to pieces in the search for blacks and an armed company of drilled blacks marched through the streets, threatening the lives of all whites. The governor has ordered out troops to protect property and quell disturbance.

At daylight this morning 300 armed white men started for a powder magazine near the city to secure explosives with which they declared they would blow up the entire negro colony of Baptist town, a suburb of this city. Today is all quiet.

The trouble, which has been brewing for months, came to a crisis when Lee Brown, a negro, shot and killed Patrolman Massey, who was trying to arrest him while bent on the murder of a white man with whom he had quarreled. Threats of vengeance were followed by the surrounding of the jail. The negro was secretly removed from the city yesterday and taken to Vincennes.

Patrolman Massey died in a terrible agony and yesterday morning the crowds refused to credit the statements of the officials that the negro was not in jail and became threatening. Twenty-five policemen were mobilized in the jail and repulsed the first attempt to force an entrance after the gates were crushed in. A telephone pole was used as a battering ram and the jail windows gave way. A committee was appointed to search the jail for the negro but its report that he was not in jail was not believed and, forcing an entrance, the mob poured into the corridors.

Finding its victim gone there was a cry of "Kill the negroes!" and arms were demanded. A company of armed negroes, aroused by race troubles, marched through the streets shouting "Down with the whites" and threatening death to all if the negro was lynched. This started a rush for gun stores by the whites.

Three were broken open and 400 rifles and revolvers with ammunition were seized. The mobs rushed through streets hunting negroes. The armed company of negroes had disappeared. All blacks had fled the streets and when the rioters failed to find victims in the streets the resort

of Bud Fruit was attacked and shot to pieces. From this time on throughout the night there was continued shooting.

The actual fatalities are not known. One negro woman is known to be dead and a boy named Logan was shot and seriously wounded by a negro. The mob that went through the streets inhabited by negroes did not stop to inspect its work and excitement and confusion prevented the houses being searched for dead and wounded.

From Fruit's place the whites started on the march to Baptist town. As dawn was beginning to break they were rushing toward the powder magazine. They were unable to get into the magazine and continued on to the negro settlement.

Arriving at Baptist town the mob riddled negro dives with bullets. Several persons were wounded and a few reported killed. Thousands of shots were fired during the night.

The negroes, after a show of resistance, scattered and did not make a stand again, all fleeing to the interior.

One of the incidents of the night was the firing by negroes on three whites seated on their front porch in Third street. One of the negroes said: "There are some damned white folks," and with these words the blacks began firing at the trio. None of the whites was hit.

EMET.

Special Correspondence.

Emet, July 6.—Plenty of rain. Blue river is reported the highest that it has been for six years. Some damage is done to the growing crop by the high water.

The mayor is having lots of business with the boys now.

A. T. McKinney's dam of water was broken by the recent heavy rains and those fine government fish are scattered from the pool to Blue river.

J. T. Gartner and family left Friday morning for Mississippi for a thirty days' visit to relatives and friends.

The Chickasaw Wagon company shipped a carload of bolts d'arc wagon fellows to Dallas, Texas, one day last week. They have now on hand ready to ship one car of telephone pins, one car walnut gunstocks and one car felloes.

T. L. Huneycutt had his old barn remodeled last week.

T. B. Thompson is having his store building pulled back in line with the rest of the buildings on that street.

Emet is improving. The new postoffice building is completed and the postoffice removed there.

Vaughan & Butler are building Dump Melton a new barn.

Hello, Provence, give us the news from your town. We congratulate you over your new daughter. Shake, and write a good letter every week.

You will be better pleased with your refrigerator if it's a White Mountain. Stevens, Kennerly & Spragins Co.

When you have used a White Elephant once you can not be induced to buy any other kind of buggy. This is the kind of buggy the Williams, Corbin & Co. are offering a reduction on now.

AFTERMATH OF THE FOURTH

FORTY-EIGHT DEATHS AND FOUR THOUSAND SERIOUS HURTS.

Pistols and Big Crackers Make Things Hum—They Were the Commonest Means of Inflicting Many Ugly Wounds.

Chicago, July 6.—Reports from all parts of the United States show that Fourth of July fatalities are more numerous than ever. Forty-eight deaths and 3,341 injured is the record of one day's explosive celebration. The figures given are not complete, but comprise all reports up to this time. How they compare with the disasters of last year can be seen at a glance.

According to the reports on the night of the Fourth last year there were 21 killed and 2,172 injured, the total next day being still larger, 31 dead and 2,772 injured.

Following the rule, toy pistols and cannon crackers did the greatest amount of harm, but every variety of fireworks had its share in filling the hospitals.

There seemed to be even more ingenuity displayed in ways of getting hurt than ever before, persons being reported injured in most unheard of ways.

The list of dead in Chicago thus far reported is but two dead. The list of injured is unhappily large. Up to midnight the number of persons injured had been 113. To the country's total of casualties Chicago furnished its usual quota and in this city sorrow and suffering were present in scores of homes last night. Dozens of boys and men, if they survive their injuries, will go through life maimed.

From all parts of the country it was the one story of blood and carnage—of mangled forms of men and children—paying the penalty of reckless handling of powder and explosives.

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